

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3757
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
PERMISSION TO CUT TREES
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given permission to the Government of Orissa to cut trees in some Forest Divisions of Orissa; and

(b) If so, the grounds on which permission has been given ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has given permission for implementation of Annual Plan of operation for the year 2005-06 based on approved Working Plan prescriptions in 11 Forest Divisions of Orissa.

(b) The permission to undertake timber operation has been given on the following grounds :

Taking advantage of advance regeneration naturally available for replacement of mature growth. Employment for forest dwelling tribal communities and their traditional vocation.

(iii) Timber and firewood yield from forests would minimize premium on illicit felling and smuggled timber.

iv. Subsidiary silvicultural operations would help improve biodiversity,

v. Financial gains from cleaning, thinning and other silvicultural operations would flow to the members of Van Sanrakshan Samiti (VSS), and this will have a positive impact on Joint Forests Management (JFM) movement.

vi. Increased presence of field staff of the department in the forest and wage employment for the tribals living in and around the forests would help reduce extremist activities in the forest areas.